



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Conservation Commission Minutes 02/02/2012

Arlington Conservation Commission
 Minutes
 February 2, 2012

Mr. Stevens called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. in the second floor conference room of the Town Hall Annex. Present were Nathaniel Stevens, Chris Naylor, Curt Connors, David White, Catherine Garnett, Michelle Durocher, Charles Tirone and Eileen Coleman of the Commission. Ms. Corinna Beckwith of the Commission did not attend. Alice and Martin S. Gordon, Suzanne Baratta Owayda and Fulton Lee Harley were also in attendance.

7:45 pm – Commission Business

White/Coleman motioned to approve the 1/19/12 **minutes** as edited; motion passed unanimously.

The Commission discussed information provided by the Finance Committee regarding the preliminary FY13 DPW budget for **waterbodies** maintenance. At this time, a line item covering only \$20,000 of the anticipated need is covered within the budget, not the full \$50,000 being requested through the Waterbodies Fund warrant article. The Town draft budget also does not show a line item in the capital budget to cover installation of a permanent boat ramp at the Reservoir. The commission agreed that any future water chestnut mitigation would need to be done using some means to protect the shoreline and paths at the Reservoir; this could include use of a conveyor attached to the harvester, use of a permanent or temporary boat ramp, or use of swamp mats, all of which would add some cost to the next harvesting.

Mr. Stevens will reach out to Karen Mullins at the Lexington Conservation Commission to inquire about support from Lexington or in-kind contributions toward the harvesting, including possible equipment loan of a conveyor or swamp mats to reduce Arlington's cost for the treatment.

The Commission will plan to advocate for additional funding to be included in the budget when the Finance Committee schedules a hearing on the Waterbodies Fund warrant article. Fin Com hearings are anticipated to begin in mid-February and run into March. The Commission will coordinate with Vision 2020 and the Reservoir Committee to ensure representation before the Fin Com.

8pm – **Notice of Intent** – 15 Parker Rd, second story addition

Mr. Fulton Lee Harley, architect, and Suzanne Baratta Owayda, property owner, appeared before the Commission.

Mr. Fulton confirmed that abutter notifications of the hearing had been sent via 1st class mail on Friday, January 27, the same day that Commissioners had performed a site walk at the property. Mr. Fulton presented amended plans, as requested by Ms Beckwith at the site walk, and explained the scope of the construction necessary for the second story renovation. The extent of the work currently being permitted does not include landscaping, modifications to the rear patio, or any modifications to existing gutters. The applicants were told that they will need to reappear before the Commission if they do landscaping or other work within the resource area at a future date.

Ms. Garnett expressed concern about the improper installation of the silt fence at the property and requested that modification be made to ensure that construction debris would not be able to slip underneath the fence into the lake. The applicant agreed to make the modification which will include toeing the fence into the ground to eliminate any gap below the fence.

White/Tirone motioned to close the hearing; motion passed unanimously.

Tirone/Connors motioned to approve the permit with conditions. Under this permit, no docks or landscaping is

approved; silt fence to be toed into the lawn.

Commission Business, cont.

No one from the Commission had been able to attend the **Symmes** meeting held earlier in the week. Mr. Stevens will seek information about the status of the project to share at the next meeting.

Ms. Garnett and Mr. White reported on the **Arlington Land Trust meeting**, which included discussions about proposing a park at the Mugar property near Rt 2 and Alewife Reservation. Neighbors in attendance expressed concerns that a park would provide cut-through access to the area by commuters making it easier for non-residents to park on their streets.

The Commission deferred until the next meeting a vote on the Certification of Compliance on the **Mystic Dam**.

The Commission discussed at length the request from Mike Rademacher to state a position on the FEMA Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR) for the development at **Discovery Park** in Cambridge. It was the consensus of commissioners that reliable information was lacking to ascertain potential flooding impacts on Arlington residents. The Commission cannot take a position to accept or reject certification of the CLOMR without independent peer review of the models and calculations, including evaluation of the underlying assumptions in the report provided by the developer's engineers.

Mr. Stevens will contact Mr. Rademacher of the DPW to request a meeting with him as soon as possible to discuss the level of review that he has performed.

The board discussed the continued problem of dumping at the **Stone Rd** conservation land.

Meeting adjourned at 9:43 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Durocher

Commission Associate member